



INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE

1. In December 1939 a representative of the 2nd Kiev Artillery School, Lt (fnu) Sosnin, came to Vinnitsa to select officer candidates among the soldiers who were undergoing basic training in the 27th Artillery Regiment. Two weeks later the selectees, a majority of whom were former school teachers, were transferred to Kiev where they went unaccompanied. They arrived at the artillery school at the end of December 1939 and were kept in quarantine during January. During this period they were given various jobs in the compound, unloading coal, hauling hay, scrubbing horses and policing the school area. After the quarantine they were examined by a medical board and then by a selection committee which made a preliminary check on their educational background. Early in February 1940 when the processing was completed the students were divided into batteries and platoons. [redacted]

2. Before the actual instruction course began, the students were given general information on the school. They were taken from class to class, acquainted with visual training aids and instructed in the history of the school. It had existed for 20 years, was well equipped and very able to carry out the normal course of instruction which lasted two years. At this time it was commanded by an elderly artillery general, Brig Gen (Genmajor) Gundorin whose deputy was Colonel Petrov. The students also were informed that they would be trained under an accelerated program which condensed the previous two year course into one year. They were to graduate as platoon commanders with the rank of lieutenants.

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3. The training was very intense with 10 hours of daily instruction. In addition, the horses had to be scrubbed three times daily as long as the school artillery was horse-drawn. The following schedule was established:
- (a) Preparatory artillery firing - shortened preparation for firing on open and covered targets, preliminary and final preparation for firing, preparation of maps on a topographic basis and gun-target line firing. Students had daily artillery problems.
 - (b) Tactical training - composition and function of units which command staffs, select the march route, firing positions and bivouac sites.
 - (c) Topography - conventional topographical signs, drawing of topographical signs, orientation by means of local points of reference and with the use of topographical maps.
 - (d) History of the Party - Students were given a short course in the history of the VKP (b) (All-Russia Communist Party of the Bolsheviks)
 - (e) Equipment - characteristics, tactical-technical data, general working principles, basic parts and their nomenclature, and care and maintenance of the 120-mm howitzer.
 - (f) Fire training - preparation of the gun "for attack and defense", work of the gun crew in conducting fire on open and closed ground targets, aimed anti-tank fire.
 - (g) German language - learning words and grammatical rules, translating of texts into Russian, writing in German.
 - (h) Mathematics - intermediate algebra and trigonometry.

Apart from these basic courses we had instruction in physical education, drill, care of horses, army regulations, engineer training, chemical warfare training, first aid, firing instruction in the working principles of small arms (rifle, revolver), automobile mechanics, and driving lessons.

4. Early in May 1940 all military schools located in Kiev were moved to a camp in Borovets, 50 km from Kiev. This also included the 1st Kiev Red Banner Artillery School imeni Kirov, normally located on Solomenka Street. In July, on orders of the National Committee for Defense, the 2nd Artillery School was motorized and all its students who were completing an instruction course based on horse-drawn artillery were transferred to the 1st Artillery School to continue with the prescribed training. The school commandant of the 1st Artillery School was Lt Col Volkinshtein who previously had served with the military mission in the USA. In the camps at Borovets we often had tactical training which included long day and night marches, crossing water barriers and carrying equipment.

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5. The students remained in camp until September 1940. On their return to Kiev they began preparing for the graduation examinations which were to take place in December. This was a most difficult and strenuous period as we had to study for 10 to 12 hours daily. During the examination period a representative of the Gorkiy Antiaircraft School, now called Tomsk AAA School /see [redacted] came to select the best students. When they protested against this transfer they were told that it was done by order from the National Committee for Defense and that they would have to obey. Early in January 1941, 150 students were sent to the Gorkiy AAA School which at that time was commanded by Col (fnu) Glebov. (He is now working in the main inspection section in Moscow.) The School Commissar was Col (fnu) Gruzd.

6. At Gorkiy the students were again subdivided into batteries [redacted]

[redacted] I never liked antiaircraft training because of its complexity. From the start of the instruction I was told that I would have to complete the accelerated course in the shortest possible time. We studied very hard and covered the following subjects:

- (a) Artillery firing training - rules for firing antiaircraft guns at planes flying on a horizontal course, at attacking and diving planes, at parachute landing forces, at tanks, against infantry and cavalry.
- (b) Equipment - mechanical construction of the 76 and 85-mm anti-aircraft guns, the function of the parts and their designations.
- (c) Theory of the range finder - average theoretical error in measuring distances and heights, construction and operation of range finders. The guns were equipped with range finders on four meter bases of the "DYA" and "ZEISS" type.
- (d) Tactical training - action of the antiaircraft artillery in protecting ground forces against air attack; action of anti-aircraft artillery in offense and in defense; tactical possibilities of antiaircraft artillery and rules governing its use.
- (e) Instruments - training on instruments used in plotting a firing chart. Training on Radar locator PUAZO-3. Training on Battery Commanders Telescope (Binokulyarnyy Iskotel). Physical training, drill and firing were also given at that time.
- (f) History of VKP(h) - a course in the history of the All-Russia Communist Party of the Bolsheviks.

7. The instruction course in antiaircraft artillery was to be completed in July 1941 and the students were busy preparing for the final examinations. On 18 Jun 41, however, while we students were having a short after-dinner rest, the 1st sergeant of the battery ordered us to report to the Lenin Room. When the battery commander came in he told us that the course of instruction was completed and that we were all graduated as

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